

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA**

M.A. NO. 15 OF 2026

IN

O.A. NO. 170 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Titled Barricade, Illegal Sand Mining Pose Threat To
WGH Riverbank Appearing in the Shillong Times Dated- 29.06.2024

... Applicant

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Dated: 12.05.2026

Filed By:



[Avijit Mani Tripathi]

Advocate for Respondent- State of Meghalaya
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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO. 15 OF 2026
IN
O.A. NO. 170 of 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Titled Barricade,
Illegal Sand Mining Pose Threat To
WGH Riverbank Appearing In
The Shillong Times Dated- 29.06.2024

... Applicant

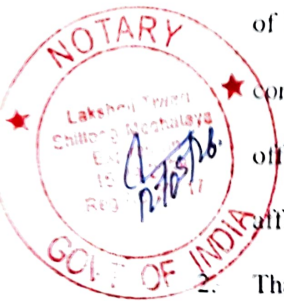
**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.5
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (PWD), MEGHALAYA**

I, B. Khlem, the Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Public Works Department (PWD), having office at Secretariat, Secretariat Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya – 793 001, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am presently posted as the Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Public Works Department (PWD) and as such I am conversant with the facts and records of the present case in my official capacity, and I am competent and authorized to swear this affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.5.

2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal has been pleased to take *suo moto* cognizance of the issue of soil erosion of embankment of Rongai

S.L. Instrument No. 39
Date 12/08/26.



Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
PWD (P&T) Shillong.

river in O.A. No. 170 of 2024 and has been pleased to dispose it off with, inter-alia, following directions:

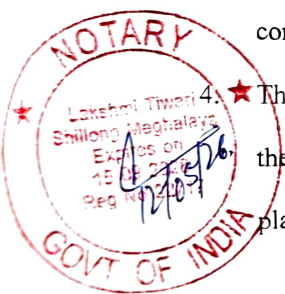
“34. We may further observe that since the Central Water Commission (CWC) has decided to revive the Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project, no directions in that regard are required at this stage. It is however made clear that the project as and when executed, shall ensure compliance of environmental norms and take care that there is no erosion of river bank soil. However, the State Government is directed to take a decision in this regard within three months. In case, however, it is decided not to revive the Project, the State Respondents shall take steps to remove the obstructions created in the free flow of the river Rengali. This exercise shall be completed within a further two months.

35. The Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills shall file affidavit of compliance by 31.12.2025.”

3. That at the outset, the deponent tenders his unconditional apology for not filing the compliance affidavit within the time granted by this Hon'ble Tribunal as the work of removal of sheet-piles from the site in River Rongai installed for Rongai River Valley Project is taking time due to reasons that the litigation in respect of the installation of those sheet piles by the concerned contractor was pending before competent Court. The said litigation got over recently, and contractor has been paid off in March 2026.

4. That after the litigation was over, the State Government decided that the revival of the Rongai Valley Project does not feature in near term planning, but it may be taken after some time. Consequently,

Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
P.O. F-37-1, Shillong-791 001



necessary permissions and funds sanctioned to PWD to remove the sheet piles and other obstructions from the site in the river for the present.

5. That subsequently, the PWD has already removed all sheet-piles and obstructions from the downstream side of the river which was causing obstruction in flow of the river resulting in erosion of its banks. However, due to early arrival of monsoon, it is not possible now to use the required heavy machinery to remove some of the sheet-piles which were placed upstream side of river, which shall be removed as soon as it is possible to employ the machinery in the river. A copy of letter of office of Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Department dated 11.05.2026 showing present status is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-1**.
6. That the aforesaid information may kindly be taken on record in compliance of the notice issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal and appropriate orders may please be passed.

It is prayed accordingly.

Identified by

Advocate, Shillong
Meghalaya


Solemnly Affirmed before me this day
on 12.05.2026 The deponent is identified
By Ms. E. Hakshah, Advocate
I Certify that the content of the Affidavit
are read over and Explained to the Deponent
in the presence of the same before me.



DEPONENT

Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
PWD (R&E) Shillong.




Lakshmi Tiwari
Notary Public
Shillong, Meghalaya
Regn No. 22717
Govt of India

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Shillong on this 12th day of May 2026 that the content of the above affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on official records of the Government of Meghalaya and that nothing is false and nothing material is concealed therefrom.

**DEPONENT**

~~Asst~~ Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
PND (F&I) Shillong.



No. PW/IRGN/5/2023/22

Dated: Shillong, the 11th May, 2026.

To

The Under Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Public Works (R&B) Department, Special Works Branch,
Meghalaya, Shillong

Sub: M.A. No 15 of 2026 in O.A 170 of 2024 – NGT Order Compliance

Ref: Your Letter No. PW/SW/NGT/2/2025/105 Dated 05.05.2026

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to submit herewith the compliance report pertaining to the Para 34 of the Judgment in M.A. No 15 of 2026 in O.A 170 of 2024 – regarding NGT Order Compliance as follows:-

During the course of construction of a barrage under Rongai Valley Project at Chibinang, West Garo Hills District, Sheet Piles were installed for laying of the foundation of the RCC barrage. However, delay in payment for the work executed, due to non-receipt of fund, resulted in a court case which subsequently delayed the removal of the Sheet piles from the downstream and upstream sides. During March 2026, payment of the contractor's pending bill was completed and the contractor has already furnished a letter to withdraw the case.

Following the release of payment, the Department has removed successfully the Sheet piles at downstream side. However, due to the early arrival of the monsoon which has prevented the movement of machineries to the river site, some Sheet piles on upstream side are yet to be removed. The main cause of erosion has already been eliminated through removal of the downstream Sheet piles. The remaining upstream sheet piles will also be removed as soon as the level of the water in the river subsides.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Yours Faithfully,

(Shri. W R Lyngdoh)
Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads)
Meghalaya, Shillong

Memo No. PW/IRGN/5/2023/22-A

Dated: Shillong, the 11th May, 2026.

Copy to:

1. The Additional Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads), Western Zone, Tura, for information.
2. The Project Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads), RVMIP, Chibinang, for information.

BS
12/5/26

Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads)
Meghalaya, Shillong



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Avijit Mani Tripathi <avijitmani@gmail.com>

MA 15/2026/EZ IN OA/170/2024/EZ - Compliance - PWD, Meghalaya

1 message

Avijit Mani Tripathi <avijitmani@gmail.com>

12 May 2026 at 18:48

To: enatoli sema <enatoli@gmail.com>, surendra kumar <surendra_kr15@rediffmail.com>, Anamika Pandey <legumjure@gmail.com>

Cc: Judicial Section <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>

Ma'am/Sir

Please find attached service of an advance copy of compliance Affidavit being filed on behalf of PWD, Meghalaya in the subject case.

Regards,
Avijit Mani Tripathi
Advocate on Record
Supreme Court of India
B 17, Fourth Floor, Jangpura Extension
New Delhi-110014
Ph.011-43582788, 9958537705

**MA 15 of 2026 NGT Reply PWD.pdf**

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